



Horn Of Africa Peace Network

Converting conflicts to peace

PROJECT: Interagency Community Outreach and Communications Fund on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)	
Activity: 1ST FGD	
Date held : 24 th Nov 2021	Number of participants: 20
Venue: HAPEN Conference room	Organization Name: HAPEN
Location Information	
State:	Jubbaland State
Region:	Lower Jubba
District	Kismayo



SUMMARY

HAPEN's non tolerance to sexual harassment and abuse is outlined in the various policies including PSEA, HR, Child Safeguarding and Code of Conduct. HAPEN has no tolerance for physical violence and sexual harassment or abuse and has clear guidelines for its staff and collaborators to make available reporting and protection mechanisms and address any acts of sexual exploitation and abuse. Focus group discussions were held as part of the wider campaign to create awareness about SEA in Kismayo. The FGD was held in HAPEN conference room in Farjano village, Kismayu and the attendees includes representatives of Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, women groups, youth groups and Jubaland Refugees and IDPs Affairs (JRIA).



DISCUSSIONS

How TO make community understand Sexual Exploitation and Abuse?

Definitions of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Sexual Abuse

The threatened or actual physical intrusion of a sexual or sexualized nature, including inappropriate touching, by force or under unequal or coercive conditions, sexual assault and rape.

Sexual Exploitation

Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, trust, or dependency, for sexual or sexualized purposes.

Sexual favor's

Any sexual or sexualized acts, in exchange for something such as

Grooming

money, goods, services, opportunities and so on.

The cultivation of emotional relationships with those in positions of vulnerability or inequitable power, with the intention of manipulating these relationships into sexualized dynamics in the future

All aid workers are prohibited from engaging in any form of sexual exploitation or abuse of a person participating in **HAPEN** program. Never engage in sexual relationships with program beneficiaries, as these relationships are based on unequal power dynamics.

Examples of prohibited behaviours

- Forcing someone to have sex.
- Demanding sex in any context.
- Unwanted (without consent) touching of a sexual nature.
- Sexual assault or abuse.
- Making sex a condition for aid or participation in a development program.
- Forcing a person to engage in sex work or pornography.

Addressing the shame, stigma and fear of reprisal that relate to disclosing abuse in the community –

Examples of retaliation:

Some examples of retaliation include the following:

- Termination, demotion, disadvantageous transfers or assignments, refusals to promote, threats, reprimands, or negative evaluations.
- Co-worker hostility or retaliatory harassment, which includes intimidation, gossip, rumors, insults, or otherwise offensive conduct that would subject a person to ridicule or humiliation.
- Any action or combination of actions that is reasonably likely to materially and adversely affect an employee's job performance or opportunity for advancement.

While Addressing shame, stigma and fear we use these core principles:

Safeguarding: safeguarding and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse irrespective of ability, ethnicity, faith, gender, sexuality, and culture. A key principle within this is that all processes are

survivor led. Commits to survivors leading the complaint process where it is possible and appropriate to do so.

Shared Responsibility-to be effective in reducing the risks to beneficiaries and communities, all must share the responsibility for implementation and improvement. As such, a failure at one level of the leadership constitutes a failure at all levels.

Effective Communication- Staff must effectively communicate with all staff, associates, and partners in simple and accessible language to create a positive and accessible culture where responsibilities are clear.

Continuous Improvement: Providing assessment, reflection and feedback mechanisms. These mechanisms include quarterly incident reviews, regular safeguarding audits, as well as regular policy review and refresher training.

Dignity and Respect -creating a work environment where the principles of dignity and respect for all staff, associates, and partners, in all locations are at the heart of what the organization does.

Zero Tolerance: All those in authority must has zero tolerance for any forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Confidentiality: Information will not be shared outside of the those receiving it unless it is absolutely necessary, and the safety of the person involved is a concern.

Reporting channels available to the community in Kismayu

For reporting mechanism of sexual exploitation and abuse. Every individual in the community is required to report suspicions or allegations of SEA to the nearest police station/security operators. Other reporting channels include Ministry of Women, Ministry of youth, elders, women group leadership and camp leadership.

As participants have the responsibility of facilitating reporting, it is critical to gather the following information:

- Who committed the alleged wrongdoing?
- Did anyone else get involved?
- What has happened? Describe in detail what you know or suspect of a SEA incident.
- Were there any witnesses?
- When and where did the incident take place? Providing dates and time, if possible.



Responsibilities of Community PROTECTION TEAMS within camps

- Be particularly alert to suspected cases of SEA within vulnerable populations.
- Report any suspected incidents or potential signs of SEA.
- Never hesitate to report suspicions of SEA because evidence was not collected.
- Respect the dignity, wishes and rights of survivors of SEA, including their wishes on whether to report to third parties.
- Seek advice from the HAPEN Protection focal point and Ministry of Women Affairs on how to report suspected cases.

Law Enforcement

- Making report in the OCCURANCE BOOK of the police station.
- referral to law department of criminal investigation for further Action.
- Apprehension of the offender.
- Prosecution of the offender.

Services available to the victims of SEA in Kismayu

A key part of the PSEA campaign is to inform about existence of and access to services locally. Such assistance mechanisms are meant to serve as a helping hand, a guide or companion to complainants, victims and children born as a result of sexual exploitation or abuse so as to make it as easy as possible to receive the services they need. The process of locating and gaining access to such services is often time consuming and can be difficult to navigate. For this reason, under the SEA each and every person qualifying for assistance needs extra support. In regard to the victim, participants observed the need to:

- Give clear referrals, which are the primary vehicle for assistance and support;
- Accompany them or provide transport to the facilities where services are provided;

- contact services providers to help their clients gain entry;
- Act as guide to and liaison with administrative processes.

Role of participants

Awareness: Ensuring that members of the community are aware about SEA, vulnerability to SEA and their rights. On the other hand, all persons in authority including Jubaland Authorities, leaders and aid workers are aware of the high standards of behavior and conduct expected of them to protect affected population from any form of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Prevention: Ensuring, through awareness and good practices that community members have minimal exposure to the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Reporting: Ensuring that every individual is clear on what steps to take where suspicions or concerns arise regarding allegations of sexual exploitation or abuse of a member of community in vulnerable populations where we work.

Responding: Ensuring that immediate action is taken to identify and address reports of sexual exploitation and abuse and ensure the safety and well-being of the person being sexually exploited or abused.

On its part, HAPPEN, other organizations and groups should ensure that:

1. Training is provided for all staff who have a specific responsibility for implementing this PSEA Policy and associated Procedures or who may be involved in dealing with complaints, which arise.
2. Awareness raising training is provided to all staff, associates, and partners on PSEA. The training will equip staff, associates, and partners to develop awareness as well as an understanding of when and how to report any concerns.
3. Proactive steps are taken to communicate the zero-tolerance message.
4. All staff is informed of and trained in the policy and procedure.
6. All staff are aware of reporting procedures.
7. All staff has signed and acknowledged that they have committed to preventing SEA

Comments by participants

Fatima Ahmed Ali from Ministry of Youth and Sports, Jubaland state of Somalia: “Sexual exploitation and abuse are very sensitive topics which we always struggle to introduce to our community. However, with skills that we got from this workshop, we will help our community. There are always cultural conflicts whenever such a topic is introduced.”

Ismail Abdi Hussein a representative from JYL YOUTH GROUP: “personally this workshop meant a lot. However sexual exploitation and abuse are global issues which we should all be educated so that we train our youth in future.”

Amina Mohamed Omar from women group: “I think most Somali parents and elderly need this focus group discussion because they are not familiar with what goes on in our camps and villages. This can help them to raise their children in a better environment.”

Abdifatah Mohamed Hirsi: “We request HAPEN to give us more workshop space to discuss on this matter.”

Annex: Attendance

NAMES	INSTITUTION
1: Abdisalam Mohamed Yussuf	JRIA
2: Mohamed Hassan Sirad	MOYS
3: Fathi Abdirashid Mohamed	Women Group
4: Namco Hassan Hussein	Women Group
5: Sharo Ali Dubad	Women Group
6: Fatima Ahmed Ali	MOYS
7: Fardowsa Hassan Ali	Women group
8: Maryam Ali Hassan	MOYS
9: Ayan Mohamed Farah	MOYS
10: Amina Mohamed Omar	Women Group
11: Mohamud Daqane Abdi	MOYS
12: Abdi Nasir Hassan	MOYS
13: Abdirashid Mohamed	MOYS
14: Ahmed Mohamed Ali	MOYS
15: Ismail Abdi Hussein	Youth Group
16: Abdi Mohamud Ali	Youth Group
17: Abdifatah Mohamed Hirsi	Mawad
18: Mohamed Said Mahamud	Mawad
19: Abdi Hassan Abdullahi	MOYS
20: Abdikadir Hassan	MOYS